

**Amendment to the Specification**

Please amend paragraph [0022] of the Specification as provided below.

-- [0022] FIG. 4 further shows gratings 64 formed in the surface of active region 56. As described above, the amount of light traveling in each direction through a grating 62 is determined by the depth and spacing of its respective grooves. A surface grating 64 may function as a coupler or interface for optical signals passing into or out of an adjacent amplifier gain region 62. The depth and spacing of respective grooves 64a of a grating 64 may be configured ~~configured~~ to regulate the passage and direction of light therethrough as desired. A grating coupler or interface 64 can comprise a number of parallel grooves. Alternatively, a surface grating can comprise one or more trenches formed in active region 56, or can comprise a crossed grating. A crossed grating is described hereinafter, in connection with FIG. 8.--